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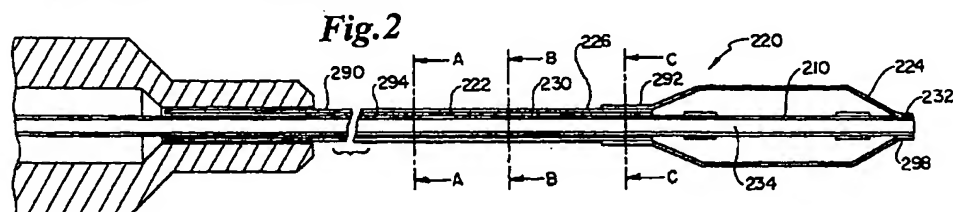
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(54) Tri-layer extruded medical tubing and medical devices incorporating such tubing

(57) The present invention provides a length of tri-layer, extruded, medical tubing (10) comprising an outer layer (16), a core layer (12), and an intermediate tie layer (14). The outer layer (16) comprises a polymer that is directly bondable, while the core layer (12) comprises a lubricious polymer. The core layer (12) thus defines a lumen (15) that exhibits the desired characteristics, i.e., low friction for the advancement of a

guidewire or catheter through the lumen without comprising the strength and stiffness that is desirable in tubing that is to be used in medical devices. Additionally, the tubing (10) is easily coextruded and yet, is not subject to delamination, thus providing the added advantage of providing a reduction in the overall cost of manufacture.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 20 1084

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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A	US 4 636 346 A (SMITH ET AL.) 13 January 1987 * abstract; claims 4-7; figures 2,3,6-8 *	1-43	
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 April 1999	Examiner Michels, N
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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